President:
Bill Somerton
284-9785

Lafayette Historical Society

POST OFFICE BOX 133, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

NEWSLETTER

Lafayette, California | April, 1999 | Vol. 26, No. 2

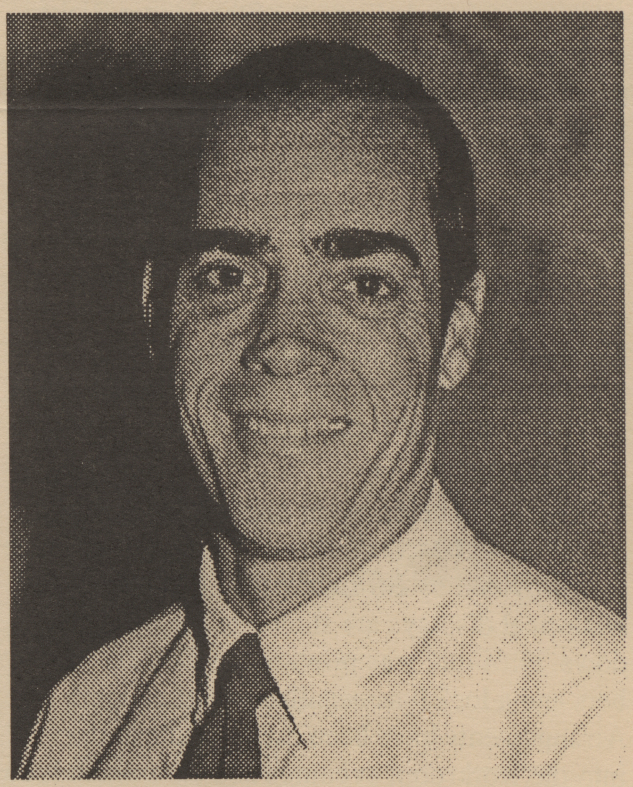
LHS Annual "Pot Luck" Dinner

Date:	Tuesday, May 11, 1999	
Time:	6 PM	Social Hour
	7 PM	Dinner
	8 PM	Short business followed by—
Speaker:	JOHN BURKE: THE GHOST IN THE ARTIFACT	
Place:	Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall, Mt. Diablo Blvd. at 1st Street, Lafayette	
Questions?	Call Dick Johnson (283-0199) or Ollie Hamlin (283-6822)	

THE GHOST IN THE ARTIFACT—a slide presentation by John Burke

This talk is a philosophical and challenging exploration of how cultural information is passed through generations by objects, and how our ideas of preservation determine the content of our heritage. After a slide presentation, John will field questions about practical preservation problems and techniques.

John Burke is currently Chief Conservator for the Oakland Museum of California, a multidisciplinary museum with extensive collections of art, history and natural sciences; and Adjunct Professor of Conservation at John F. Kennedy University, where he teaches a course in Preventive Conservation. He has been active in the field of art conservation for more than 27 years, and has served as president of the Bay Area Conservation Guild, on the board of the Western Association for Art Conservation, member of the Education and Training Committee of the American Insti-



John Burke, Chief Conservator, Oakland Museum of California. Photo courtesy of The Oakland Museum of California.

"We believe in the power of history to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought and provide enjoyment. Through our collections and programs we strive to link Lafayette's history to the lives of people."

tute for Conservation (AIC), international consultant for UNESCO and the OAS, and currently Director for Professional Education on the Board of the AIC.

His areas of interest include general collections conservation, integrated pest management, microclimates for storage and exhibition, computer database and worldwide web programming, and the treatment of unusual 20th century objects.

As usual, each family should bring its favorite casserole or salad, large enough to serve 6 to 8 people. Board members will provide dessert, and LHS will provide wine and coffee. The no-host bar will be open at 6 pm.

President's Message

The final event of the sesquicentennial year celebration was dedication of the Jennie Bickerstaff memorial plaque at the base of the redwood tree Jennie had planted, now in front of Diablo Foods on Mt. Diablo Blvd. The Lafayette Garden Club and the Historical Society joined in sponsoring the dedication ceremony. Ed Stokes of Diablo Foods provided the plaque and refreshments for the dedication. The rock on which the plaque is mounted was provided by Miler Magrath of Diamond K who also made arrangements for placement of the rock at the base of the tree. A goodly number of Lafayette residents attended the dedication.

Progress is being made on the LHS Museum Workroom at 3455 Golden Gate Way. The space was provided by Efi Lubliner of EDC Systems. Historical displays are shown in the front windows. Furniture was provided by Society members and a lock was installed into the room. Arrangements have been made to allow entry into the workroom evenings and on weekends so that work on the Society's archives may proceed.

An inventory of known items of historical interest stored at various locations throughout Lafayette has been completed by Stuart Baker, an Acalanes High School student, as a community service project. We now wish to add to the inventory items of historical interest owned by Lafayette residents and other persons in the area. Please let me know if you have items which might be of value for the museum.

There have been a great many meetings regarding the proposed improvement of Plaza Park. Some funds will be available from the Measure C project for downtown circulation improvement but there is a shortfall of funds to complete the Plaza Park project. Suddish Mohindroo, architect for the project, will attend the Society's annual meeting to discuss the plans and possible alternatives for completing the funding.

An inventory of historical markers in Lafayette has been completed by Bill Somerton and Ruth Dyer. Copies will be available at the Annual Meeting.

It has been a busy year and I wish to thank members of the Society for their support. See you at the Annual Meeting.

—by Bill Somerton

Board of Directors Election

Tuesday, May 11 will be LHS Director election day, in conjunction with our annual Pot Luck dinner. Each year 1/3rd of the Board members are elected to a two year term. Standing for re-election this year are Ruth Dyer, Ollie Hamlin and Keith Blakeney.

Two new faces are on this year's ballot. Mary McCosker has been nominated to replace the retiring Ray Peters, and Dorothy Walker is nominated to finish the term of Nancy Flood, who has resigned.

Wayward Archives

If you are storing something at your home which belongs to the LHS Archives, or you have something to donate to LHS, please be prepared to describe it on a list we're compiling at the Pot Luck.

1997/98 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Board of Directors

Bill Somerton, President	284-9785
Nancy Flood, Vice President	283-3409
Paul Sheehan, Treasurer	284-1287
Ruth Dyer, Recording Secretary	283-8312
Oliver Hamlin, Corresponding Secretary	283-6822
Keith Blakeney	284-2221
Marechal Duncan	283-6812
Ray Peters	283-5256
Tom & Janice Crosetti Titmus	299-2030
Joseph Van Overveen	283-3650
Bill Wakeman	283-3908
Gary Willcuts	283-0706

Committee Chairs

Annual Potluck Dinner, Richard Johnson	283-0199
Archives, (vacant)	
Book Sales, Ruth Dyer	283-8312
Community Relations, Marechal Duncan	283-6812
Displays, Bill Somerton	284-9785
Fire Engine, George Wasson	284-4603
Historian, Bill Wakeman	283-3908
LHS Online, Dorothy Walker	283-3303
Membership, Oliver Hamlin	284-1446
Newsletter, Gary Willcuts	283-0706
Mailing, James Sturman	932-7620
Oral Historian, Nancy Flood	283-3409
Plaza Park, Ray Peters	283-5256
Programs, Keith Blakeney	284-2221
Publicity, Tom & Janice Crosetti Titmus	299-2030
Walking Tours, Bill Wakeman	283-3908

Cut here

Lafayette Historical Society

MEMBER INFORMATION

(For multiple names/addresses, please photocopy this form.)

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Membership Categories and annual dues (please check one):

_____ Student membership	$ 2.50
_____ Family membership	$ 10.00
_____ Business membership	$ 50.00
_____ Life membership	$100.00

Make check payable to **Lafayette Historical Society** and mail to P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, California 94549

DUES	$_____
Fire engine maintenance	$_____
Sesquicentennial	$_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED	$_____

Please indicate your areas of special interest:

_____ Sesquicentennial

_____ Annual Dinner Committee
_____ Displays
_____ Newpaper Clippings
_____ Programs & Trips
_____ Walking Tours

_____ Archives
_____ Fire Engine
_____ Oral History
_____ Research
_____ Other _____

_____ LHS Online/Computers
_____ Landmarks
_____ Photograph Collection
_____ Telephone Committee

LHS CALENDAR

Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

Date	Tuesday, May 11, 1999
Time:	6 pm Social hour, 7 pm dinner, 8 pm Program
Place:	Lafayette Veterans Memorial Hall

May Board of Directors Meeting

Date	Tuesday, May 11, 1999
Time	After Pot Luck Dinner. Members welcome to stay for the brief Board meeting.

For information on membership, contact Oliver Hamlin, 283-6822.

Lafayette Historical Society
POST OFFICE BOX 133, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

First Class Mail

OAKLAND CA 945
PM
APR 27
1999

Gary Willcuts
1343 Martino Road
Lafayette, CA 94549

Return Service Requested